

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 05126 062246Z

70

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 EB-11 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /137 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PINT KS US

SUBJECT: CURRENT EDITORIAL REACTION TO FRASER/NIX HEARINGS

REF: SEOUL 5032; B SEOUL 5071

1. LOCAL EDITORIALS ON AUGUST 1 FRASER/NIX SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS CONTINUE TO SOUND WARNING THAT REDUCTION OF US SUPPORT TO KOREA, EVEN IN PULLING SOME US TROOPS AWAY FROM DMZ FOR REDISTRIBUTION ELSEWHERE IN COUNTRY, WOULD ELICIT INCREASED NORTH KOREAN PROVOCATIONS. SHIFTING FROM EARLIER STANCE REBUTTING FORMER AMBASSADOR REISCHAUER'S CALL FOR REDUCTION OF US TROOPS AND CONGRESSMAN FRASER'S PROPOSAL TO CUT MILITARY AID PROGRAM, PRESS COMMENT IS NOW EXPRESSING GENERAL WORRY ABOUT DEGREE OF OVERALL US SUPPORT TO KOREA. AND CALLING FOR CLOSE CONSULTATION. ONLY PERIPHERAL NOTICE, IF ANY AT ALL, HAS BEEN GIVEN TO SUB-COMMITTEE TESTIMONY ON KOREAN CIVIL LIBERTIES AND ALLEGED POLITICAL PRISONERS.

2. SPECIFICALLY, ON AUGUST 2, HANGKUK ILBO RECOGNIZED REISCHAUER CONCERN WITH HUMAN RIGHTS BUT NOTED KOREA
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PAGE 02 SEOUL 05126 062246Z

WAS BEING CHALLENGED BY "FREE WORLD'S MOST DANGEROUS

ENEMY." WAY TO "SAFEGUARD OUR HUMAN RIGHTS, FREEDOM
AND DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM, IS TO PREVENT ANOTHER WAR IN
KOREA." OFFICIAL SEOUL SHINMUN ON AUGUST 2 FEARED
NORTH KOREA MIGHT MISCALCULATE SITUATION IF SOUTH
BEGINS TO LOSE PROTECTION OF "SUPERPOWER AMERICA",
AND ON AUGUST 3 IT STATED THAT REALLOCATION OF US
FORCES SHOULD BE DISCUSSED IN ADVANCE WITH ROKG AS
ISSUE WAS MUTUAL SECURITY CONCERN. ENGLISH LANGUAGE
KOREA TIMES ECHOED THIS LATTER ARGUMENT ON AUGUST 6.
MEANWHILE, KYUNGHYONG SHINMUN ON AUGUST 3 WORRIED
THAT WITHDRAWAL OF 4TH MISSILE COMMAND AND US ANTI-
AIR ARTILLERY UNITS AVOCATED BY SOME US CONGRESSMEN
WOULD BE TOO RISKY. JOONGANG ILBO NOTED THAT USG
SHOULD EXPLAIN TO CONGRESS AND PUBLIC CURRENT SITUATION
IN KOREA VIS-A-VIS NORTH. DONGA ILBO CALLED REISCHAUER
PROPOSAL TO CUT AID UNREASONABLE, ADVOCATING THAT US
AND ROKG REASON TOGETHER.
HABIB

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